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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Steven P. Bitler et al.
Application No. 09/810,920
Filed: March 16, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 12969-1

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: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.55(c)
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This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c), filed January 14, 2002, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) for benefit of prior-filed PCT application no. PCT/US00/40780, as set forth in the concurrently filed declaration.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority requires:

- (1) The nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date must be filed on or after November 29, 2000;
- (2) the claim submitted with the petition must identify the prior foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by the application number, country, and the filing date, **and be included either in an oath or declaration (37 CFR 1.63(c)(2)) or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(b)(6));**
- (3) the surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
- (4) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. (The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.); and
- (5) the above-identified nonprovisional application must be filed within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign application.

All requirements being met, the petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is **GRANTED**.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.55(c) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 § U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) and 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed PCT application, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Patricia Faison-Ball at (571) 272-3212. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being to Technology Center Art Unit 1714 for consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) of the prior-filed PCT application.



Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt